

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 RSR-01 ACDA-19 /117 W

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R 280915Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9764

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 5693

1. IN AUGUST 27 MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION  
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE  
THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL  
INDICATED GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION WAS LIKELY TO  
TAKE A LONG TIME. PRIME MINISTER DECLINED A REQUEST  
FOR THE GROUP TO MEET KIM TAE-CHUNG, BUT ASSURED THEM  
THAT KIM'S PHYSICAL CONDITION WAS  
FINE.
2. PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTED THIS MEETING WITH EMPHASIS  
ON LIKELIHOOD OF PROTRACTED INVESTIGATION.
3. SPOKESMAN FOR NDP INVESTIGATING GROUP KM SU-HAN  
TOLD EMBOFFS AFTERWARDS THAT PRIME MINISTER GAVE NO  
INDICATION OF WHEN ROKG WOULD ANNOUNCE ITS FINDINGS  
IN KIM CASE. ASKED WHETHER ANY NDP POLITICIAN HAD  
RECOMMENDED RETURNING KIM TAE-CHUNG TO JAPAN,  
SPOKESMAN REPLIED CERTAINLY NOT. FAR BE IT FOR  
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ANY KOREAN ASSEMBLYMAN, HE SAID, TO WORRY ABOUT AN  
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY.

4. CHOSON ULBO GOSSIP COLUMN AUGUST 28 QUOTED  
A HIGH ROKG SOURCE AS DESCRIBING JAPANESE CONCERN  
OVER ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AS REFLECTION  
OF JAPANESE COLONIALIST MENTALITY OF LOOKING DOWN ON  
KOREANS. SAME SOURCE SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY  
NONSENSICAL FOR DIET MEMBER USUNOMIYA TO  
COMPLAIN OF SLIGHT TO JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY, SINCE  
HIS FATHER WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF JAPANESE ARMY  
IN KOREA AT THE TIME OF MARCH 1, 1919 INDEPENDENCE  
UPRISING.

5. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, GOVERNMENT  
SPOKESMEN ARE NOW INFORMALLY HITTING TWIN THEMES,  
INDICATING THAT KIM CASE INVESTIGATION WILL BE  
PROLONGED AND JAPANESE HAVE NO RIGHT TO REACT TO  
ANY ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY IN VIEW OF  
JAPAN'S PAST MISDEEDS TOWARDS KOREA. EMPHASIS ON  
PROLONGED INVESTIGATION APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER  
GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO PUT THE LID ON THE KIM CASE  
FOR THE PRESENT AND TO DAMPEN INTERNATIONAL REACTION  
AND INTERNAL SPECULATION.  
HADLER

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## Message Attributes

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